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UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS NO. 553

PROGRAM TITLE

SUSTAINING

ADVERTISER

AGENCY

BERG-OFFEN)

WRITER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1943

DAY & DATE

11:30-12:00 NOON CWT BLUE WENR

TIME

PRODUCTION NOTES

CHARACTERS

CAST

JIM- HARVEY HAYS
JERRY - FRANK DANE
RICHARDS - BETTY ARNOLD
MATT - PHIL LORD

SOUND

REMARKS

MASTER Attached as broadcast:

This copy represents as accurately as possible the program. All alterations made in dramatic and/or musical content are contained herein.

Orchestra Leader

Production Director

Announcer

Agency Producer or Announcer

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UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE NO. 523

SUBSTANTIAL

(RECORDED)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1963

11:30-12:00 NOON CWT BLUE WIRE

PRODUCTION NOTES

CHAS. C. C. C.

JIM - HARVEY HAYS
JOHN - FRANK DAVIS
ROBERT - BETTY ARNOLD
MATT - PHIL LORR

REMARKS

1 ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers!

2 MUSIC: THEME

3 ANNOUNCER: This is National Fire Prevention Week. In setting aside
4 this week for all Americans to give special attention to
5 preventing fire losses, President Roosevelt stated that
6 since Pearl Harbor, the destruction by fire in this
7 country has been as great as the damage caused by enemy
8 bombs in England during the first two years of the war.
9 It certainly depends upon each one of us therefore to
10 help beat down and keep down this terrible enemy within
11 our borders - Fire - that brings ruin wherever it lays
12 its heavy hand, in our homes, in our dry fields, on our
13 range lands, or in our green forests. And may this
14 National Fire Prevention Week also mark the beginning
15 of a much greater period of time when all of us will
16 continue, every week in the year, to do our rightful
17 share in preventing fires..Now to the Pine Cone National
18 Forest where we find Ranger Jim Robbins and his assistant,
19 Jerry Quick, riding along a forest road in the pick-up
20 truck. You'll notice Jerry's mood seems to match the
21 rainy weather, as we join the two men. Here they are:

22 FADE IN SOUND OF MOTOR, SUSTAIN

23 JERRY: Deggone it any way!

24 JIM: All right, Jerry, out with it! What's eating you now?

25 This year's in their back of the neck. Got it? It's a
year-round proposition, huh?

1 JERRY: Aw, this whole business, Jim. Shucks, we've been praying
2 for rain all this month to put an end to our fire season
3 here on the Pine Cone. And what happens when the rain
4 finally comes? Still more fire business..

5 JIM: Well, I reckon sitting in on a fire case before the Justice
6 of the Peace won't be exactly like beating your heart
7 out against a bad fire in the timber, Jerry. And I guess
8 our fire business today is just as important as fighting a
9 fire in the woods, too.

10 JERRY: Yeah, I s'pose so.

11 JIM: If we don't enforce the law, Jerry, we're apt to have all
12 the more fires to put out next year.

13 JERRY: Oh, the fire prevention angle, huh?

14 JIM: That's right. And get this son. Our fire business isn't
15 over with when the rain wets the woods down. Fire's
16 an all-year round proposition, Jerry; we've gotta realize
17 that if we're ever going to lick the old devil.

18 JERRY: All right, Jim, all right..

19 JIM: (STRONG) And furthermore, we may be through for the time
20 being here on the Pine Cone so far as actual fire-fighting
21 goes, but, get this..In the South, and in some of the
22 Eastern States and the Lake States, our fellow-foresters are
23 just beginning to fight 'em. We take up trying to prevent
24 next year's fires here where they left off trying to prevent
25 this year's in their neck of the woods. Get it? It's a
year-round proposition, see?

JERRY: Okay. Okay. I'm grinning. See? (PUTTING ON) I'm happy because today it's only a fire case at the J.P.'s and not a fire.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Skip it, Jerry. I guess you got me all worked up on the subject..Anyhow, this lady J.P..

JERRY: Huh? What's that? A lady Justice of the Peace? We gotta take this case up with a lady judge, Jim?

JIM: That's right. A Mrs. Richards is the J.P. over here now.

JERRY: Shucks, that don't sound so good.

JIM: Why not, Jerry? Women are doing a bang-up job wherever they've replaced men....building ships and planes, running a tractor, and all. I don't see why Mrs. Richards won't make a mighty good justice of the peace..

JERRY: What great and abounding faith the man has! No wonder the ladies and children and little puppy dogs all love you, Jim..

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Well, any way I'm willing to take my chances with Mrs. Richards. She's a fine, capable woman, and I reckon the truth will prevail in this case today.

JERRY: Shucks, I'll bet the defendant'll put up some kind of hard luck story and she'll fall for it. I'll just keep my fingers crossed if you don't mind.

JIM: We'll see..That's the Richards' place just up ahead, there, Jerry.

JERRY: Yeah?..Say, look at all the cars and wagons around her house, Jim. Looks like quite a turn-out, huh?

JIM: Yep. I guess a lot of the neighbors'd be interested in a brush-burning case like this.

JERRY: Or in a new lady justice of the peace, huh?

JIM: Have it your way. Stop here, Jerry.

SOUND: OT MOTOR OUT, DOOR OPENS ON HARD RAIN, THUNDER OFF

JERRY: Golly, it's sure coming down. (DOOR SLAMS SHUT) I kinda feel sorry for those horses, that've gotta stand out in all this rain.

JIM: Yeah. They're kinda taking a beating, aren't they..Let's go in, Jerry....

SOUND: STOMPING ON PORCH

MRS. RICHARDS: (OFF) Howdy, Ranger. Come on in out of the wet.

JIM: (CALLS) Morning, Mrs. Richards.

JERRY: (SOTO) There's our lady J.P., Jim. She sure don't show much judicial dignity, does she? Look, sleeves rolled up, she's got an apron on and..

JIM: (SOTTO) Never mind, Jerry..(RAISING VOICE) Hello, Mrs. Richards. Hope we're not late?

MRS. R. Not a bit. Come in, if you can find any room (CROWD NOISE ON) I wasn't expecting all this crowd this morning.

DOOR CLOSSES, VOICES GREET HIM AND JERRY)

1 MRS.R: Well, I guess we can start the proceedings. No, wait -
2 Tom Miller, you can get rid of that chew of tobacco in
3 your mouth, please. This is a courtroom this morning,
4 maybe, but I've still got to live here afterwards. (CROWD
5 LAUGHS) Thank you, Tom.

6 JIM: Look, those horses outside, Mrs. Richards. I reckon they're
7 tied good? Some of 'em might bolt if this storm bears
8 down any heavier.

9 MATT: (GOOD HUMOREDLY) What're you tryin' to do, Ranger?
10 Gain favor with the court by bein' kind to dumb animals?
11 (LAUGHS FROM CROWD)

12 MRS.R. I take it, Matt Baker, that your horse is all right?

13 MATT: I ain't one for forgetting anything like that.
14 Sure my horse is tied good.

15 MRS.R: All right then. But anybody else who's a mind to check
16 his horse is welcome to do so. (SLIGHT PAUSE) No? All right,
17 this court's in session..I might say at the beginning that
18 I've got some food cooking out in the kitchen and maybe I'll
19 have to call a short recess now and then to tend to it,
20 but I guess that won't affect my judgement in this case any.
21 Now, I just want to have a look at these papers again and
22 then we'll get down to business.

23 CROWD MURMURS

24 JIM: (SOTTO, THRU MURMUR) Maybe I shouldn't've mentioned the
25 horses, at that, Jerry.

JERRY: (SOTTO) I duno, Jim. Nobody seemed to want to stir when you
suggested it. Looks like their sympathy's with Matt Baker,
huh?

1 JIM: (SOTTO) Well, they're mostly all neighbors of his.

2 MRS.R: All right.(CROWD OUT) Matt Baker, you're charged with lettin'
3 fire get away from some brush and you were burning in your
4 north field and spread to the National Forest, burning
5 some two acres of same before said fire was extinguished
6 by the Rangers here.

7 MATT: Wait a minute. I helped the Rangers put that fire out.

8 MRS.R: That's to your favor, of course. But let me finish. Damages
9 representing the cost to the government for suppressing said
10 fire comes to thirty-three dollars and fifty cents.

11 MATT: I wouldn't know anything about that, Your Honor. Doesn't
12 sound like very much to worry about, though.

13 MRS.R: It would seem to me that if all damages were considered, it
14 would be much more than that. Little trees burning up that
15 might've made good timber some day, big trees injured, soil
16 damaged, taking the time of these Rangers to fight fire when
17 they could've spent the same time on important war work..I
18 shouldn't wonder but that thirty-three dollars and fifty
19 cents was way under what the actual cost to Uncle Sam's
20 war job comes to..and because of a fire that I see you're
21 inclined to turn up your nose about, Matt Baker.

22 CROWD NOISE, THUNDER OFF
23
24
25

JERRY: (SOTTO) Holy smokes, did you hear that, Jim? I hadn't thought about the war angle.

JIM: (SOTTO) Her boy, Jimmy, he's in the thick of the fighting, so I guess she knows something about war, all right.

MRS.R: Well, Matt? What've you got to say about all this? Are you guilty as charged or not guilty?

MATT: Well, I told the Ranger I'd come up here and plead guilty and throw myself at the mercy of the court, 'cause maybe my brush burning did start the woods afire; but now, seein' how things are, I'm not so sure, your Honor, that it was my brush fire that got away after all. Coulda been somebody passing by my field, flipping a match down or..

JERRY: Hey, that couldn't be!

JIM: Hold it, Jerry.

MRS.R: Let him speak, Ranger. This court's informal.

JERRY: Your Honor, we found signs, right on the ground, where the fire had burned along from Mr. Baker's brush pile to the woods. He saw that himself. And that's why he decided to plead guilty.

MRS.R: What about that, Matt?

MATT: Well, it looked like he says but, shucks, what was to prevent somebody wantin' to do me a meanness spreading the fire that way?

MRS.R: I take it, then, that you didn't stay by your brush-burning all the time?

1 MATT: No ma'am. It was just a little brush I was burnin'. A
2 farmer's got other things to 'tend to these days. You
3 oughta know that yourself.

4 MRS. R: And you didn't even make sure the fire wouldn't get away?
5 You've just about admitted you didn't plow or clear
6 any line 'tween your brush fire and the woods, 'cause
7 you saw how the fire ran to the woods.

8 MATT: Look here, I've been burning brush for more'n twenty years
9 and no fire of mine ever got away.

10 MRS. R: H-m-m. And why didn't you think about all that when you and
11 the Ranger talked this thing over at the fire? When you
12 decided to come before me?

13 MATT: Aw, now look, your honor. (THUNDER OFF) I've been burning
14 brush for twenty years, like I said. I wouldn't forget a
15 little thing like seeing that my fire was safe.

16 CROWD MURMUR, THUNDER OFF, RAIN UP

17 MRS. R: Just a minute. What's that I smell? Good heavens, it's my
18 beans..Court's recessed a minute, gentlemen. (GOING OFF)
19 Be right back.

20 MATT: (CHUCKLING) Say, this is kinda fun at that, ain't it, Ranger?
21 Our lady justice, she don't know where she's at now, huh?

22 JIM: This isn't a bit funny to me, Matt. I'm sorry I had to make
23 a case out of it, but you know yourself that fire..

24 SOUND: OF THUNDER AND CLAP OF LIGHTNING CLOSE BY, FOLLOWED BY SOUND
25 OF SPLINTERING AND CLATTER OF HOOVES GOING OFF FAST

JERRY: Golly, that was close!

MATT: Somebody's horse broke loose, didn't it?

1 JIM: Yeah, and a wagon's busted to boot. Sounded like it
2 was around back, I'd say.

3 MATT: Hey! My rig's out back.

4 MRS.R: (COMING ON) Not any more, it isn't, Matt Baker. Your horse
5 and what's left of your wagon are headed for home. I saw
6 it out the kitchen window..You didn't even tie your horse,
7 did you, Matt?

8 MATT: Shucks, I've never known him to run off in any rainstorm.
9 I thought he'd be safe standing there alongside the kitchen.

10 JIM: Just like you thought your brush fire was safe when you left
11 it, huh Matt?

12 MATT: You gotta recess this court, Mrs. Richards. I gotta go
13 find that doggoned horse 'fore he breaks a leg or somethin'.

14 MRS.R: In a minute, Matt. It won't take a minute to wind up
15 matters here now..so you don't forget anything as simple
16 as tying up a horse, huh? Well, looks like somebody in
17 a Higher Court has passed judgement on you, Matt Baker,
18 placin' a lightning bolt just close enough to prove your
19 evidence was all wrong.

20 MATT: Yes, Ma-am?

21 MRS.R: I'm findin' you guilty of the charge, Matt. And I'm fining
22 you the full damages I told you about before plus four
23 dollars court costs, but seein' as how you've suffered
24 wagon damage too, on account of this fire, I'm suspending
25 the fine and court costs which come to thirty-seven dollars
and fifty cents..on condition..

1 JERRY: Hey, wait, Mrs. Richards..

2 JIM: Quiet, Jerry.

3 MRS.R: On condition you take that thirty-seven dollars and fifty
4 cents and go buy a fifty-dollar war bond. Maybe that'll
5 make up in part for the damage your fire did to the war job.
6 Well, that's my judgement..

7 CROWD APPLAUDS

8 JERRY: I take it back, Jim. Every word I said about our Lady
9 Justice of the Peace. Golly, old Solomon was a piker
10 compared to Mrs. Richards.

11 JIM: Look, she's even got Matt Baker grinning at her decision..
12 Come on, Jerry. Let's help Matt find his horse and
13 what's left of his wagon, huh?

14 MUSICAL FINALE

15 ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers comes to you each week during
16 the National Farm and Home Hour as a network presentation
17 with the co-operation of the Forest Service, United
18 States Department of Agriculture.

19
20
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JERRY:

Boy, wait, Mrs. Richards..

JIM:

Gulch, Jerry.

MRS. R:

On condition you take that thirty-seven dollars and fifty

cents and go buy a fifty-dollar new bond. Maybe that'll

make up in part for the damage your fire did to the war job.

Well, that's my judgment..

CROWD APPLAUDS

JERRY:

I take it back, Jim. Every word I said about our lady

justice of the peace. Golly, old Solomon was a phar

compared to Mrs. Richards.

JIM:

Look, she's even got Matt Baker grinning at her decision.

Come on, Jerry. Let's help Matt find his horse and

what's left of his wagon, huh?

MUSICAL FEMALE

ANNOUNCER:

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